A Meeting of the South River Economic Development Commission was held February 12, 2009 and was called to order by acting Chairman Anthony Spitaleri at 7:30 PM in the Council Chamber of the Criminal Justice Building at 61 Main Street in South River, New Jersey with the following members in attendance:

Kevin Appleby, Suzanne Buffalino, William England, Anita Hermstedt, Renee Parsons, Anthony Spitaleri and Alternate Edmond Cicchi.

Arthur Londensky - excused, Alternate Dejan Andrejic and Alternate Manuel Silva where not present.

RE-ORGANIZATION

Nominations to elect officers for the year 2009 were entertained.

Chairman: Mr. Spitaleri was nominated by Mrs. Hermstedt,
    Nomination seconded by Mr. England,
    All in favor.

Vice Chairman: Ms. Parsons was nominated by Mrs. Hermstedt,
    Nomination seconded by Mr. Appleby,
    All in favor.

Secretary: Ms. Buffalino was nominated by Mr. Spitaleri,
    Nomination seconded by Mrs. Hermstedt,
    All in favor.

Treasurer: Mrs. Hermstedt was nominated by Mr. Spitaleri,
    Nomination seconded by Mr. Appleby,
    All in favor.

Sergeant at Arms: Mr. Appleby was nominated by Ms. Parsons,
    Nomination seconded by Mr. England,
    All in favor.
REGULAR MEETING

Regular Meeting was called to order by Mr. Spitaleri. First order of business was to set the agenda order for future meetings as:

- Roll Call
- Minutes
- Treasurer’s Report
- Council Liaison’s Report
- Old Business
- Public Comment
- New Business

MINUTES

Meeting of January 8, 2009 was not convened due to insufficient attendance. No minutes were presented for December 2008 meeting. Motion to waive approval of minutes by Mr. Spitaleri, seconded by Mrs. Hermstedt, all in favor.

TREASURER’S REPORT

None available due to re-organization. Motion to waive treasurer’s report by Mr. Spitaleri, seconded by Mr. England, all in favor.

COUNCIL LIAISON’S REPORT

Mr. Trenga believed the budget to be $1,000 and will confirm this at next meeting, after introduction of 2009 Budget. Motion to close council liaison’s report by Mr. Spitaleri, seconded by Ms. Parsons, all in favor.

OLD BUSINESS

Farmer’s Market – Ms. Hermstedt updated the commission.

- Farmers to provide their own insurance. Borough to provide normal event insurance.
- VFW is not suitable location to hold the market.
- Parking lot on Obert Street also deemed unsuitable.
- Mr. Spitaleri asked for volunteers to help find a location, Ms. Parsons volunteered.

Master Plan – Mr. England asked what the process is and if meetings will be planned with groups and will the EDC be contacted?
Mayor Eppinger told the commission that the proposed contract from the Planner was received by the Borough Council. After approval by the Borough Council and then the Planning Board, meetings with the EDC, Planning Board, Zoning Board of Adjustment, Parking Authority and Historical Preservation Society among others, will be held during which ideas and suggestions will be discussed. In addition, at least 6 special Public Meetings will also be held for input from the public.

Mr. England asked the commission if we should discuss on our own first. Mr. Spitaleri thought it best to wait and see once contract is approved.

Mr. Eppinger noted that the entire process should take 18 months to 2 years to complete.

Taste of South River – Budget for the commission needs to be known before moving forward due to the expense of this project.

Motion to close old business by Mr. Spitaleri, seconded by Mrs. Hermstedt, all in favor.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment. Motion to close public comment by Mrs. Hermstedt, seconded by Mr. England, all in favor.

NEW BUSINESS

Restaurant Week -

Mr. Trenga proposed a Restaurant Week program. Businesses would be approached to have a set price for what they want to offer and the commission would advertise it. Ms. Buffalino added that there would be a set lunch and dinner price for a selection of each restaurant’s menu that the owner’s would provide. People could then sample from all participating restaurants that week for the same price. Nothing would need to be closed off and could be run once a year during the same week. Ms. Buffalino and Mr. Trenga will approach businesses with the idea.

Car Show –

Mr. Spitaleri would like to bring back car shows for 2009. Concern about money in budget. New banner would be needed. Suggested 4 car shows: June, July, August and September. Closing Main Street from Reid Street to Gordon Street with Ferry Street up to Police Department. Mr. Trenga will check with Borough Council regarding budget.
Website –
Ms. Buffalino brought up the possibility of using some of the Borough’s website for meeting dates, news, contacts for business programs and a map of the business district with business locations shown. Mr. Trenga will check with Borough Council.

County EDC and State EDA –
Ms. Buffalino also wanted to see if we could meet with these two groups about programs that are offered. Mr. England and Mrs. Hermstedt both offered to help.

Motion to close new business by Mr. Spitaleri, seconded by Mr. England, all in favor.

MEETING DATES

Meeting dates for the remainder of 2009 where set as the 2nd Thursday of each month, beginning at 7:30 PM.

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Meeting was adjourned by Mr. Spitaleri, seconded by Ms. Parsons, all in favor. Meeting ended 7:58 PM.

Respectfully Submitted
March 2, 2009
Suzanne Buffalino, Secretary